

Welcome to the Legislative Update for October 1, 2010

This e-mail is provided as a courtesy of the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging. The purpose of this service is to keep Arizona's seniors and advocates for aging services informed about bills and actions taking place at the Arizona State Legislature and to highlight Congressional bills or happenings affecting older Americans. *Between legislative sessions, the Legislative Update is provided monthly with a federal focus.* This information is intended to help you shape your own opinion about an issue and to give you the necessary resources and contacts so that you can ensure your perspective and voice are heard. *The Legislative Update is non-partisan in nature.* Thank you for your interest!
(We continue to have issues with the newsletter template and appreciate your patience.)

GENERAL OVERVIEW:

State Budget

The **Joint Legislative Budget Committee** (JLBC) updates on revenue collections, budget status and status of the economy are posted on the Arizona State Legislature website. A link to that website is provided here: <http://www.azleg.gov/>

The JLBC *Revenue & Budget Update*, provided to the Finance Advisory Committee, shows the projected FY 2011 budget shortfall is now estimated at nearly \$(825) million. The deficit estimate for FY 2012 is greater. A link to the Revenue & Budget Update is provided here:

<http://www.azleg.gov/jlbc/revenuebudgetupdate.pdf>

The JLBC *Monthly Fiscal Highlights September 2010* report indicates August General Fund revenue collections increased; however, "August results were \$(11.9) million below forecast. For the 2 months year to date, revenues are \$(39.2) million below forecast." A link to the full report can be viewed at:

<http://www.azleg.gov/jlbc/mfh-sep-10.pdf>

The JLBC *Tracking Arizona's Recovery* report can also be found at:

<http://www.azleg.gov/jlbc/TrackingAZRecovery.pdf>

Other News:

In advance of the November General Election, **voter information** can be found at:

<http://www.azsos.gov/election/>. Note: October 4th is the deadline for registering to vote.

Information about the ballot measures is provided at:

<http://www.azsos.gov/election/2010/General/BallotMeasures.htm>.

If you have a particular perspective to share with the administration or the legislature, you may voice your thoughts by contacting the:

Governor's Office of Constituent Services at 602-542-1318 or toll-free at 1-800-253-0883

or you may **contact the legislator from your area**. You can locate your legislator by going to the **Arizona State Legislature website** <http://www.azleg.gov/> and looking for: *How do I find My Legislators* or by following the instructions provided at both the **Senate** and **House Member** links at the website.

FEDERAL LEGISLATION:

S.RES.633

Resolution designating September 23, 2010, as "National Falls Prevention Awareness Day" to raise awareness and encourage the prevention of falls among older adults.

Introduced on September 21, 2010 by Senator Herb Kohl (WI), the resolution was cosponsored by Senator Robert P. Casey, Jr. (PA), Senator Russell D. Feingold (WI), and Senator Barbara A. Mikulski (MD).

S.RES.633

- Designates September 23, 2010 as National Falls Prevention Awareness Day.
- Commends the Falls Free Coalition Advocacy Work Group and the 31 state falls coalitions for their efforts to work together to increase education and awareness about the prevention of falls among older adults.
- Encourages:
 - (1) businesses, individuals, governments, the public health community, and health care providers to work together to promote the awareness of, and reduce the incidence of, falls among older adults in the United States;
 - (2) state health departments to reduce falls among older adults; and (3) experts in the field to share best practices.
- Urges the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to continue developing and evaluating strategies to prevent falls among older adults that will translate into effective fall prevention interventions, including community-based programs.

On 9/21/2010, the resolution was submitted in the Senate, considered, and agreed to without amendment and with a preamble by Unanimous Consent.

Note: The Arizona Fall Prevention Coalition participated as one of the 31 state coalitions celebrating National Fall Prevention Day.

S.3698

Positive Aging Act of 2010

S.3698:

- Amends the Public Health Service Act to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) to make grants to public and private nonprofit entities to:
 - (1) demonstrate ways of integrating mental health services for older adults into primary care settings; and (2) support the establishment and maintenance of interdisciplinary geriatric mental health outreach teams in community settings where older adults reside or receive social services.

(2) support the establishment and maintenance of interdisciplinary geriatric mental health outreach teams in community settings where older adults reside or receive social services.

- Requires the Director of the Center for Mental Health Services to designate a Deputy Director for Older Adult Mental Health Services to develop and implement initiatives to address the mental health needs of older adults.
- Includes representatives of older adults or their families and geriatric mental health professionals on the Advisory Council for the Center.
- Directs the Secretary to give special consideration to providing treatment for older adults with substance abuse disorders when developing program priorities for addressing priority substance abuse treatment needs of regional and national significance.
- Requires state plans for community mental health services grants to describe: (1) the state's outreach to, and services for, older individuals, individuals who are homeless, and individuals living in rural areas; and (2) how community-based services will be provided to these individuals.

On August 4, 2010, the bill was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions. Related bill: H.R. 3191.

H.R.5269

Resolution to express the sense of Congress that Federal job training programs that target older adults should work with nonprofit organizations that have a record of success in developing and implementing research-based technology curriculum designed specifically for older adults.

The resolution was introduced on May 11, 2010 by Representative William Lacy Clay (MO).

- Expresses the sense of Congress that the Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP), and any other federal program that provides job training and placement services for older adults, should: (1) work with nonprofit organizations that have a record of success in developing and implementing research-based technology curriculum designed specifically for older adults; and (2) partner with such organizations to provide training, student materials, and support for a broad range of workforce technology skills, including basic and intermediate computer skills, Internet, email, word processing, spreadsheets, presentations, and other appropriate key skills for assisting older workers to enter or reenter the workforce.

On June 29, 2010, H.R. 5269 was referred to House Subcommittee on Healthy Families and Communities.

H.R.5466

SAMHSA Modernization Act of 2010

Introduced on May 28, 2010 by Representative Patrick J. Kennedy (RI-1), the bill is cosponsored by Representative Gene Green (TX-29).

SAMHSA Modernization Act of 2010

- Amends the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).
- Expands the activities of SAMHSA to include: (1) the provision of grants to integrate mental health and substance use disorder services into primary care settings; (2) the provision of grants for projects that address the mental health needs of older adults; and (3) programs to recruit and retain qualified mental health and substance use professionals.
- Revises and reauthorizes appropriations for the Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness Act.
- Requires the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS), acting through the Administrator of SAMHSA, to study whether the funds under the substance abuse prevention and treatment block grant and the community mental health services block grant are being distributed to states and territories according to need and to recommend changes in such distribution, if necessary.
- Establishes the Task Force on Behavioral and Mental Health in Medical Education to develop a plan to strengthen the capacity of graduates of accredited schools of allopathic or osteopathic medicine to deliver integrated, comprehensive health care. Requires such plan to identify specific behavioral and mental health education that should be required for graduation from such schools.
- Establishes the Council on Integration of Health Care Education to develop recommendations to strengthen the capacity of health care professionals and behavioral health providers to deliver integrated, comprehensive health care. Authorizes the Secretary to provide for the implementation of such recommendations.

On May 28, 2010, the bill was referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

H.R.5725 Senior Citizens Income Security Act of 2010

Introduced on July 13, 2010 by Representative Bill Posey (FL-15), the bill is cosponsored by Representatives Marsha Blackburn (TN-7), John Fleming (LA-4), and Donald A. Manzullo (IL-16).

Senior Citizens Income Security Act of 2010

- Amends the Internal Revenue Code to:
 - (1) to replace the formula for including social security benefits in gross income for income tax purposes with the formula in existence prior to the enactment of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993;
 - (2) eliminate mandatory withdrawals from retirement accounts after age 70-1/2;

- (3) eliminate employment taxes on individuals receiving social security retirement and Medicare benefits; and
- (4) allow an exclusion from gross income, up to \$250 (\$500 for joint returns), for dividends, interest, and capital gains. Appropriates additional amounts to the Hospital Insurance Trust Fund to compensate for losses in revenue resulting from the revision of the formula for including social security benefits in gross income.
- Amends title II (Old-Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance Benefits) of the Social Security Act to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) to establish a procedure for allowing Medicare beneficiaries to waive Medicare entitlements and be automatically enrolled in the Medicare Alternative Voucher Program established by this Act.

On July 13, 2010, the bill was referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

If you want more information specific to this or any bill, go to the Thomas website <http://thomas.loc.gov/> and enter the bill number under *Search Bill Summary & Status*.

Contact Your Congressional Member. If you are interested in Congressional bills or wish to share your thoughts or concerns, find out how to contact your congressional representatives by visiting: <http://www.house.gov/> for members of the House or <http://www.senate.gov/> for members of the Senate.

Other News

2010 Flu information is available at: www.flu.gov.

From the U.S. Department of **Health and Human Services**

HHS recently announced grants and programs to help navigate health and long-term care options. The press release can be found at:
<http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2010pres/09/20100927a.html>

HHS awards for public health and prevention priorities: [HHS awards nearly \\$100 million in grants for public health and prevention priorities](#)

Administration on Aging website offers an opportunity to view testimonies from Older Americans Act (OAA) reauthorization forum and to submit input online at:

http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/AoA_Programs/OAA/Reauthorization/Index.aspx

The **World Alzheimer's Disease Report 2010** offers a worldwide look at the impact of the disease.

The Executive Summary is provided at:

<http://www.alz.co.uk/research/files/WorldAlzheimerReport2010ExecutiveSummary.pdf>

The full report can be found at: <http://www.alz.co.uk/research/worldreport/>

The **Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation Health Reform Source - Implementation Timeline** is an interactive tool that offers a look at how and when the health care reform will be implemented. You can visit the tool at:

<http://healthreform.kff.org/timeline.aspx>

National Council on Aging (NCOA) offers information on getting the most from Medicare at: <http://www.mymedicarematters.org/>

INFORMATION & RESOURCES:

WHAT: Northern Arizona Council of Governments Area Agency on Aging 19th Annual Elder Issues Conference *Creating Caring Communities Helping Seniors Help Themselves*

WHEN: October 6, 2010 High Country Conference Center, 201 West Butler Avenue, Flagstaff AZ 86001

For more information: <http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/RegistrationBrochureA2010Final.pdf>

WHAT: Tele-seminar, Combat Stress and PTSD: Working with Veterans and their Families

WHEN: Friday, October 8, 2010 9 am to 12 noon, Cochise College **Center for Lifelong Learning, Sierra Vista Campus, Room 702**

For more information:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/CombatStressPTSDTeleseminar.pdf>

WHAT: Arizona Coalition to End Homelessness (AzCEH) 17th Annual Conference

WHEN: October 18 & 19, 2010 Black Canyon Conference Center, 9440 N. 25th Avenue, Phoenix, AZ

For more information and to register:

<http://www.gifttool.com/registrar/ShowEventDetails?ID=166&EID=7562>

WHAT: EmployAbility New Labels to Build a Better Bottomline

WHEN: October 28, 2010, 9:00 to 12:00 pm, Arizona State Capitol Mall Complex,
1700 West Washington Street (on the east side of 17th Avenue)

For more information:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/AllExhibitorsSponsorsFinal.pdf>

WHAT: 15th annual Family Caregiver Conference, A Caregiver's Harvest: Hope & Support

WHEN: Friday, November 12, 2010, 7:30 am to 3:30 pm Doubletree Hotel, 445
S. Alvernon Way, Tucson, AZ

For more information:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/CaregiverConfBrochure111210.pdf>

WHAT: Santa Cruz County Elder Abuse Task Force 3rd Bi-Annual Conference

WHEN: November 18, 2010, 8 am to 4 pm, Esplendor Rio Rico Resort, Rio Rico,
AZ 85648

For more information:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/2010ElderAbuseConference.pdf>

November is Family Caregiver Month. Visit <http://www.azcaregiver.org/>
for more information on resources and events.

If you would like to submit an educational or public service event for consideration,
you can do so by sending an email with the description to: gaca@az.gov. Please
note: we try to include events of interest to older Arizonans and aging service
advocates.

Thank you; enjoy the fall season.

~Governor's Advisory Council on Aging